

Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 4, 2007  
Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center  
Higgins Lake, Michigan

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bud Dankers at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Members present:

James Bailey	Ken Martin
John Huffman	Bud Dankers, Chair
Neil Carlson	Ron Sefcik
John Kurkowski	Ken Dodge
Paul Connors	Don Tarry
Terry Laymon	Dave Hohlfeldt
John Cottenham	John Thompson

Members absent:

Alternates:

Todd Aloffs, Vice Chair	Brian Siess
Randy Buller	none
Jason Dinsmore	Frank Nagy
Ralph Kandt	none
Mike Gnatkowski	none

16 members are present thus there is a quorum

12 votes are required to pass any motion

DNR Staff present: Mike Bailey, Joe Robison, Dave Luukkonen,  
Karen Cleveland, and Sgt. Dave Shaw (in the afternoon session)

The minutes of the March 10, 2007 meeting were approved

Motion: James Bailey; Support: John Huffman

Joe Robison reviewed the CWAC mission statement and goals.

***Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Committee mission:*** Provide feedback to the DNR - Wildlife Division on existing and proposed waterfowl regulations and wetland management issues. CWAC members must present views and concerns which represent stakeholders from their areas of the state and disseminate information learned at CWAC meetings back to those stakeholders.

**Mike Bailey**

Explained changes in DNR allowed travel policies. These changes account for fewer staff being present at this meeting.

No license package has been approved by the Legislature. As a consequence, the Governor has issued an executive directive freezing the hiring of personnel. The impact for Michigan waterfowlers is obvious.

## **Dave Luukkonen**

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended liberalized regulations for SJBP geese to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations Committee; however, because the Atlantic Flyway Council has a fundamental interest in the management of the SJBP they objected to changes in SJBP regulations without first modifying and approving the management plan for SJBP.

It is likely that Michigan's 2007 - 2008 goose season will be unchanged from the previous year.

Based on the information provided in the USFWS film the upcoming duck season will be a liberal one. Generally speaking habitat and populations are rated on the upside.

## **Joe Robison**

Presented information on Duck seasons and populations

Continental mallard population is 14% above the 2006 -2007 estimate.

Michigan's mallard population is estimated at 13% above last year.

Joe reviewed the spring breeding information which resulted in the MFC's decision for a liberal season. The matrices of the AMH indicate another liberal season - 60 days and 6 birds.

## **Dave Luukkonen**

The U. S. House of Representatives passed the new CRP bill (with a tax increase attached). The Senate may not accept it. A joint session may call for extension of the current CPR bill.

The Waterfowl Work Group recommended the following dates for the 2007 - 2008 duck season:

Zone 1 - September 29 through November 27;

Zone 2 - September 29 through November 27;

Zone 3 - October 6 through December 2, with a January 5 - 6 split.

In the MVP portion of the state, 45 regular goose season.

The regular goose season would be 30 days in the SJBP portion.

## **Zone 1 CWAC Recommendations**

### **First Motion:**

October 6<sup>th</sup>-December 2 and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

In Fvor: 9

Opposed: 6

Motion Fails

### **Second Motion**

October 13<sup>th</sup>-December 9<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 11

Opposed: 5

Motion Fails

### **Third Motion:**

October 6<sup>th</sup>-December 4<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 2

Opposed: 14

### **Fourth Motion**

Statewide October 6<sup>th</sup>-December 4<sup>th</sup> U.P. and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> S.L.P.

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 13

### **Fifth Motion**

October 6<sup>th</sup>-December 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> S.L.P.

In Favor: 10

Opposed: 5

### **Sixth Motion**

October 13<sup>th</sup>-December 9<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> S.L.P

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 6

### **Proposal for Zone 1**

#### **First Motion**

UP September 29<sup>th</sup>-November 27<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 16

Opposed: 0

## **Proposal for Zone 2**

### **First Motion**

NLP September 29<sup>th</sup>-November 27<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 7

Opposed: 8

### **Second Motion**

NLP September 29<sup>th</sup>-November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

In Favor: 16

Opposed: 0

Southern Lower Peninsula

October 6<sup>th</sup>-November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Back to Zone 3**

### **Seventh Motion**

October 6<sup>th</sup>-October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>-December 9<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 0

Opposed: 16

### **Eighth Motion**

October 6<sup>th</sup>-December 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

In Favor: 12

Opposed: 3

## **Duck Harvest Restrictions**

Hen Mallards

**Motion to have hen mallard per day.**

In Favor: 16

Opposed: 0

**Canvasbacks-Motion to have 2 Canvasback of only one of which may be a hen.**

In Favor: 10

Opposed: 6

**Motion to have 2 canvasbacks.**

In Favor: 15

Opposed: 1

**Goose Regulations**

**Upper Peninsula Goose**

September 18<sup>th</sup> -November 1<sup>st</sup>

**Lower MVP Zone**

**Oct 6-Nov. 12 (38-days) and Nov. 22-28 (7 days)**

In Favor: 15

Opposed: 1

**Southern James Bay Zone**

Oct. 6-Oct 21 (16 days) and Nov 22-Dec 5 (14 days)

In Favor 5

Opposed 11

Oct. 6-14 (9-days) and Nov. 22-Dec 12 (21 days)

In favor 14

Opposed 2

**Allegan and Muskegon GMU's**

Allegan: Nov. 24-Dec 1 (Youth AM Nov. 24)

December 26-January 31 (Youth PM Jan. 5)

In Favor 9

Opposed 6

Allegan November 24<sup>th</sup>-December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
And December 27-January 31

In Favor 16

Opposed 0

Muskegon

October 18-November 14<sup>th</sup>

And December 1<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>

Follow the frame work as close as possible at MWW

In Favor 16

Opposed 0

### **Tuscola/Huron and Saginaw GMUs**

Open concurrently with duck season opener and run continuously for 50 days

Late Canada Goose Season

30 Days

January 5-February 3

With a 5 bird daily limit

In favor 15

Opposed 1

Moved by Dave Hohlfeldt that season dates be September 29 through November 27.

Supported by John Cottenham.

Passed on 15 to 1 vote

### **Zone 2**

Moved by Dave Hohlfeldt that season dates be September 29 through November 25, with a two day split of December 1 - 2

Brian Siess supported.

A vote of 16 to 0 passed motion.

### **Zone 3**

John Huffman moved that the dates be October 6 through December 2, with a January 5 - 6 split.

Seconded by Dave Hohlfeldt.

Passed by a 12 to 4.

Dave Luukkonen reviewed goose numbers for the body.

The MVP is up by 5%. The SJBP is stable. Local giants are up 17%.

We will be using the old plan for control this year.

MVP season will be 45 days with a two bird daily limit.

SJBP season will be 30 days with a two bird daily limit.

### **WWG recommendations for Goose Managements Units**

Allegan and Muskegon Waste Water  
45 days with 2 birds in daily limit  
No quota

Tuscola - Huron  
50 days with 1 bird  
750 bird quota

Saginaw  
50 days with 1 bird  
2,000 bird quota

Dave Luukkonen informed the Committee that there is a move to reduce the black duck harvest. For 2008 - 2009 , there could be a reduced season on black ducks in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways on an interim basis.

The SRC approved a two canvasback limit. It is left to the states to decide.

Brian Siess moved that Michigan allow two canvasbacks in the bag this season.

Dave Hohlfeldt seconded the motion.

Passed - 15 to 1

Motion by John Cottenham to keep the one hen limit for mallards.

Support by Ken Martin.

Passed with a unanimous vote.

Cottenham moved that the recommendations of the SRC relating to all other species be accepted.

Hohlfeldt supported.

Passed unanimously.

Moved by John Kurkowski to set the UP MVP regular goose season dates from September 18 through November 1, also that the dates for the LP MVP regular goose season will be split October 6 through November 12 and November 6 through November 28. A two bird limit will be in effect in both.

Hohlfeldt supported.

Passed on a vote of 15 to 1.

John Cottenham moved that the SJVP regular goose season be divided October 16 through November 14 and November 22 through December 12. A single bird limit will be in effect.

Supported by Hohlfeldt.

Passed on a vote of 12 to 4.

Late Goose Season - South Zone

Motion by Hohlfeldt that the season be 30 days and run from January 5 through February 3 and that there be a 5 bird daily limit.

Seconded by Terry Laymon.

Passed 15 to 1.

Sgt. Dave Shaw

Flyway law enforcement issues:

1. Injuries caused by large sized heaviest - injuries and damage inflicted at 150 yards.
2. There has been an increase in the use of technology in covert enforcement.



3. The MWF Law Committee would like to establish a website.
4. Advance training in enforcement of waterfowl regulations utilizing DVD's, etc.

MDNR enforcement issues:

1. There were 328 violations booked in 2006.
2. The year saw 515 verbal warnings issued.
3. In 2006, there were 15 fewer enforcement officers than in the previous year.
4. The lower numbers don't tell the full story. It is the more senior officers who are leaving and that means they are taking away their knowledge and experience from the Enforcement Division.

Next meeting of CWAC will be Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the RAM Center.

Motion by Laymon, seconded by Cottenham to establish a roster of CWAC members showing name, city of residence, whether an at-large member or organizational representative, with e-mail and telephone number.

Passed with a 15 to 1 vote.

Mike Bailey responded to questions concerning mute swans and cormorants.

There are efforts being made to control both species.

Mike also addressed the problems caused by the current budget crunch.

Retiring members James Bailey and John Cottenham were awarded certificates in recognition of their service.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.